UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1991/SR.18
13 February 1991

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 8 February 1991, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. BERNALES BALLESTEROS (Peru)

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Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights, including:

(a) Problems related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

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GE.91-10520/2855B

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The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CONTAINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, AND STUDY OF SPECIAL PROBLEMS WHICH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FACE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THESE HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING:

(a) PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE RIGHT TO ENJOY AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING; FOREIGN DEBT, ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT POLICIES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND, IN PARTICULAR, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT;

(b) POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE FULL REALIZATION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS (agenda item 7) (continued) (E/CN.4/1991/11; E/CN.4/1991/NGO/6, 7 and 12; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/19)

QUESTION OF THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT (agenda item 8) (continued) (E/CN.4/1991/12; E/CN.4/1991/NGO/6, 7 and 10; E/CN.4/1990/9/Rev.1)

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS (agenda item 17) (continued) (E/C.12/1988/1; CCPR/C/2/Rev.2; A/45/403; A/RES/45/135)

EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF BODIES ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS (agenda item 18) (continued) (E/CN.4/1991/46; A/45/636; A/RES/45/85 and 88)

1. Mr. STUART (Australia) said that it was time to start working towards a unified United Nations approach to the realization of all human rights. That individual human beings were the central subject, rather than the passive object, of all the work of United Nations economic and social activities was a common theme in a range of recent studies. As stated in the Human Development Report 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), human development was a process of enlarging choices, which implied the right to a long and healthy life, to education and to the resources needed for a decent standard of living, as well as political freedom, civil rights and personal self-respect. The effort to foster economic growth and restructure economies should address people's basic needs and focus on the situation of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Popular participation and democratic processes were not just an end in themselves: they were essential to successful efforts to pursue economic and social goals.

2. He wondered why the Commission had not been able to accomplish as much in that field as in other areas of the human rights programme. Unquestionably, the Commission could not and should not attempt to supplant the international development agencies and other bodies. Rather, the Commission should seek to ensure that the standards embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights and other instruments were taken fully into account in all the activities of the United Nations, including those of the specialized agencies and financial institutions.

3. The establishment in 1987 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been a step in the right direction. The current task for the Commission was to consider how the Committee's work could have more of an impact and how the Economic and Social Council could play the role which the drafters of the Covenant had intended for it.

4. The lack of effective United Nations machinery and procedures in the area of economic, social and cultural rights stemmed from conceptual and practical difficulties. During the cold war, those rights had been used as pawns in an ideological chess game and debate had tended to focus on generalities rather than on an exchange of views on specific action proposals. Hence the resistance to giving those rights an appropriate place.

5. For some, however, it had been difficult to accept the idea of a right to development. Nevertheless, the fears that the Declaration on the Right to Development would reduce the importance which the United Nations attached to other human rights activities appeared unfounded.

6. The type of procedures already developed by the Commission would not necessarily be an appropriate model for further action in the field of economic, social and cultural rights. There were limits to the extent to which Governments could be held accountable for their record in achieving progress in that area. Economic policy was not made in a vacuum. The problems of international debt and a difficult trading environment had impeded the pursuit of economic, social and cultural rights in many countries. Nevertheless, Governments which were party to the Covenant could reasonably be expected to take steps to the extent of their available resources to achieve for their people progressively the full range of rights embodied in the Covenant.

7. There were practical problems involved in identifying the situation of economic, social and cultural rights in a given country. The neglect or abuse of such rights did not have the instant recognizability or "news value" of political repression and violence. The statistics annexed to reports of the World Health Organization or the World Bank were invaluable, but they did not command the same attention in the human rights debate as reports of violations of civil and political rights.

8. Furthermore, in order to observe the state of economic, social and cultural rights, it was necessary to look beyond individual cases to a more general picture which must also show developments over time. It was also crucial for information to be disaggregated, so that the situation of the most vulnerable or most disadvantaged groups could be identified.

9. The analysis of the reasons why progress with regard to economic, social and cultural rights had or had not been made in a given country should identify the internal and external barriers to progress and examine ways in which the promotion of fundamental civil and political rights could foster sustainable development.

10. In response to the general comments of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1990, his delegation would support measures to co-ordinate the Committee's work more closely with that of the specialized agencies and international financial institutions. There might also be a case for the Committee's reports to be discussed at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council, which was attended by the specialized agencies.

11. The Commission should pursue the idea of "benchmarks", which entailed the provision of statistics indicating progress over time towards achieving the rights in question as well as the definition of objectives in the medium term.

12. In its resolution 1990/45, the Economic and Social Council suggested the holding of a seminar to discuss the nature of such benchmarks or indicators. He supported that proposal and called for participation in such a seminar of the Committee, the specialized agencies and international financial institutions, members of the relevant areas of the Secretariat and outside experts.

13. More seminars on economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development should be held under the auspices of the United Nations human rights programme. Such activities, however, should have a more specific focus; for example, they could examine the impact of efforts to reduce illiteracy and to promote education on freedom of expression and participation in the political process.

14. Mr. ARTEAGA (Venezuela) said that, despite the regrettable events which were currently taking place in the Gulf, the encouraging signs of a willingness to engage in dialogue remained intact. There was every reason to expect a continuation of the efforts to achieve greater understanding and solidarity with regard to the complex challenges facing the international community.

15. The promotion of human rights and the right to a decent standard of living were closely linked. Hence the right to development - an inalienable human right - was relevant to the Commission's work and all human rights and fundamental freedoms were indivisible and interdependent.

16. At the previous session of the Commission, it had been stated by a number of speakers, that the socio-economic situation of the developing countries had dramatically deteriorated and that the past 10 years had been a lost decade for development. Unfortunately, that situation remained unchanged at the beginning of the new decade.

17. The external debt of the developing countries was one of the most serious obstacles to their economic development and growth. The negative net transfers of resources, exacerbated by ever-increasing interest rates, placed major constraints on the options of the developing countries. That was not merely a financial and economic problem, but a vast social one. There was a clear relationship between the level of external debt and extreme poverty.

18. New studies had highlighted the magnitude of the debt crisis. A UNICEF report indicated that external debt continued to absorb a large share of the resources which could otherwise have been invested in social progress. The reduction in family incomes and in public expenditure on health and education meant that many African and Latin American children continued to pay a very high price for their countries' debt. Likewise, the World Bank report for 1990-1991 stated that, at the end of 1990, the total external debt of the developing countries had amounted to $1,341 billion, representing an increase of 6.5 per cent over 1989.

19. The Commission should pursue its analysis of the relationship between the external debt problem and the realization of human rights in the light of the right to development, so as to promote awareness by the international community of the social consequences of the problem and to mobilize international co-operation.

20. MR. JAGNE (Gambia) said that his delegation had always maintained that individuals could not contribute effectively to the socio-economic development of their countries if their full potential was not allowed to develop freely. One of the ways to encourage greater popular participation was the democratization of the political process. Civil and political rights could best be guaranteed within the framework of democratic pluralism. While the mere introduction of political pluralism would not transform a society overnight from one of poverty to one of prosperity, it allowed people's energies to be released, and that was the starting-point of any meaningful development. In his view, human rights should not suffer for the sake of economic development, and vice versa.

21. His Government had embarked on a structural adjustment programme in collaboration with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on the eve of the country's general elections, which could have been a golden opportunity for the opposition. Because the Government had had the courage to explain to the people the difficulties involved and the need to make sacrifices for a better future, the programme had been accepted by the people and had proved successful. With a view to consolidating those gains, his country had embarked on a programme for sustained development.

22. He noted with satisfaction that popular participation was becoming the order of the day almost everywhere. In Central and Eastern Europe, the winds of change had swept away one-party systems after four decades of institutionalized fear. The same winds were blowing in other parts of the world, and it was to be hoped that other totalitarian systems would be swept away as well.

23. Mr. GROSSE (International Federation of Human Rights) said that, as the Commission had been pointing out for many years, popular participation at the national level was a prerequisite for the complete enjoyment of all human rights, particularly the right to development. In that connection, he wished to draw the Commission's attention to the current situation of the population of Albanian origin in Kosovo, Yugoslavia.

24. At previous sessions of the Commission, his organization had informed it of the brutal repression to which the population of Albanian origin in the autonomous province of Kosovo was subjected by the Serbian police and the federal army. While police violence was continuing, his organization had noted the introduction over the past few months of measures of economic repression, involving the forcible integration of Kosovar enterprises into the Serbian economy.

25. On 26 July 1990, the Serbian Parliament had adopted an act on labour relations in emergency circumstances, under which the Serbian authorities could change the management of every enterprise and institution in Kosovo. Through that act, the Serbian authorities had installed managements composed entirely of Serbians in the most important enterprises in Kosovo.

26. Thus, the integration into the Serbian economy of the Kosovo electricity generating enterprise, which accounted for 35 per cent of the gross national product, had caused a loss of DM 185 million for the Kosovo economy during the first six months of 1990. In addition, for several months, the police had been preventing Albanian scientists working in the research centre of that enterprise from reaching their work stations because they had opposed the policy of integration.

27. Furthermore, those emergency measures had been used as a pretext for the Serbian authorities to transfer all the machinery in the Kluz textile factory to Belgrade, leaving 300 employees jobless. It should be noted that most of those Kosovo plants had been financed by the International Monetary Fund.

28. On 5 July 1990, while the Serbian authorities were in the process of suspending the Parliament and Government of Kosovo, several units of Serbian police had occupied the Prishtina radio and television building. On 18 August 1990, some 3,700 police officers had been dismissed. There were virtually no longer any Albanians in the Kosovo police force.

29. To protest against the emergency measures which had been implemented to date in 250 enterprises and their destructive consequences for the Kosovo economy, the independent trade union of Kosovo had decided to hold a general strike on 3 September 1990. It had called for the reinstatement of all Albanian workers and officials, the regular payment of wages without any political blackmail, and compensation for delays in the payment of wages. It had also called for the suspension of the forcible integration of Kosovo enterprises into Serbian enterprises. Lastly, it had demanded that there should be no attempt to impede the lawful action of the trade unions, since that right was guaranteed by two ILO conventions, of which Yugoslavia was a signatory, and by the Constitution of the Yugoslav Federation.

30. There had been a massive participation in the general strike, which had been followed by a series of dismissals, brutal treatment and arrests. In the month following the strike, more than 6,000 Albanians had been dismissed, bringing the total number of dismissals to 43,000 since the beginning of 1990. Moreover, in the case of some of those dismissed, the loss of their jobs had also entailed the loss of their housing. Nurses, employees of agricultural co-operatives and municipal employees who had indicated their support for the strikers had been beaten and sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 to 60 days. Private shopkeepers and tradesmen had also participated in the strike and, in retaliation, the police had closed some 2,900 shops by padlocking or sealing their doors. Several thousand shopkeepers had been sentenced to pay fines of 3,000 dinars (DM 428), a sum equivalent to a month's wages.

31. All his organization's information, substantiated by the Croatian, Serbian and Kosovar press, confirmed that the Kosovo economy was threatened with imminent ruin. All its economic, industrial, health, and educational infrastructures were in a chaotic condition and unable to ensure the well-being of the Albanians in Kosovo. As the employees who had been dismissed received no unemployment benefits, the Albanian population was being forcibly reduced to destitution and its resultant malnutrition. Already, of every 100 children who died before the age of 1 year in Yugoslavia, 33 were Kosovo Albanians, although the ethnic Albanians accounted for only 8 per cent of the population of the country.

32. In view of the continual deterioration in the economic situation in Kosovo province, his organization urged the Commission to take the matter up. To enable the Kosovo population to participate fully in the economic development of its region, it was essential to restore the legal institutions - Parliament and Government - of the autonomous province.

33. Mr. WADLOW (International Fellowship of Reconciliation) said that popular participation through freely constituted organizations was a prerequisite for socio-economic development and the full realization of human rights. However, popular participation inevitably dealt with the distribution of power within a society and that made it necessary to look at what might be called "unpopular participation".

34. Throughout the world, voluntary groups working to better their conditions and to change the distribution of power encountered enormous difficulties, because popular participation was inevitably a challenge to the status quo. No development project, no matter how small or how technical, was without an impact on the distribution of power.

35. Although, in many countries, there were unions of agricultural workers, agricultural co-operatives, rural credit unions and peasant leagues, it was nevertheless generally true that rural organizations had rarely achieved the degree of national power and international status that had been reached by industrial-worker unions. One reason why the rural poor remained poor was that they were rarely well organized and if they did organize so as to be able to participate meaningfully, they were often repressed.

36. Most economic and political power in developing States was concentrated in the urban areas. As the FAO contribution pointed out (E/CN.4/1991/11), the economic and political power structure of many countries did not encourage the active participation of small, marginal and landless farmers and rural workers. Policies regarding development priorities and the allocation of resources and services often favoured the politically powerful urban areas.

37. A newer trend was that an increasing amount of rural productive land was falling under the control of urban élites, which frequently resorted to force to maintain their positions.

38. Non-violent techniques had been used in a number of countries to organize the powerless in rural areas. However, if such measures were not adopted to facilitate the peaceful participation of the rural poor, it was likely that they would turn to armed violence.

39. Ms. SLESZYNSKA (Christian Democratic International) said that the 1980s had been a phase of regression for most developing countries, particularly those of Latin America. According to ECLAC data, the annual increase in gross national product had barely exceeded 1 per cent. As a result, the per capita product had continued to decline steadily.

40. Her organization considered that one of the main reasons for that situation was the external debt which, through its economic and social effects, was leading to a reduction in the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms and human rights.

41. It might be said that political responsibilities with respect to the debt crisis were shared between the creditor and debtor countries, though not in the same way or to the same extent. The developed countries as a group were responsible for having removed the financing of the third world from the area of economic relations linked to a sense of solidarity and political and ethical responsibilities to the area of a private financial market which was unconcerned with political and moral aspects. While the periods of economic difficulties experienced by various developed countries partly explained that situation, they did not justify it.

42. The debtor countries of Latin America were responsible both in the private and public sectors for having become recklessly indebted and, in many cases, for having made inefficient use of the resources received. The Governments of those countries were responsible for economic policies which sought ephemeral financial expansion and encouraged the private sector to use resources irrationally. Private banks and individuals in the Latin American countries were guilty of having sent their capital abroad, attracted by interest rates which they could never have obtained on investments in their own countries.

43. The social effects of the debt had been multiplied as a result of the recession; the contraction in earned income, the often tragic fall in the purchasing power of the informal urban sector, juvenile unemployment, and the reduction in public social expenditure in key sectors as a result of the increasing percentage of resources used for debt service had all had a strong impact on social development in Latin America and the third world in general.

44. The democratic Governments of the third world needed political and economic support in order to cope with the increase in poverty and the social fragmentation resulting from that situation. In that regard, she recalled that the 1987 declaration of the Pontifical Commission "Justitia et Pax" had called on all the major parties to assume "joint responsibility" for resolving the problem.

45. The debt problem not only endangered the balanced development of the world but also constituted a threat to the peace. Current adjustment policies imposed from abroad on countries which were often necessitous did not constitute the solution to the problem.

46. In general, it was important to state that there could be no solution without a substantial reduction in the nominal value and service of the debt. In other words, there must be a drastic reduction in the volume of net transfers abroad by the Latin American region. Technical ECLAC studies estimated that those transfers should be reduced to one quarter of their current amount to enable the continent to resume growth, to maintain its level of employment and to cope with the increase in population.

47. The disappearance of a bi-polar world caught up in political and military confrontation provided an exceptional opportunity. There was no doubt that a new type of world order was coming to birth and that the end of the bi-polar confrontation between Powers would make it possible to release vast resources and bring about a hitherto unimaginable change in international relations.

48. Mrs. BEYELER-VON BURG (International Movement ATD Fourth World) said that extreme poverty was a crucial issue whether in time of war or in time of peace and her organization hoped that the Commission would continue to accord priority attention to its eradication as one of the challenges involved in the defence of human rights throughout the world.

49. She recalled that Father Joseph Wresinski, the founder of her organization had once addressed the Commission and that his plea that its work should encompass the question of extreme poverty as a denial of human rights, had been reflected in various resolutions of the Commission and the Sub-Commission.

50. The destitute families throughout the five continents where her organization worked were well aware that their living conditions would not change overnight just because the Commission and the Sub-Commission had become conscious of them. However, what had encouraged them was knowing that the Commission really wanted to find out the facts about their efforts, their sufferings and their hopes.

51. The members of the Commission were, perhaps, wondering where those destitute families lived. They lived in squatter camps beside ravines, where nobody registered births or deaths; in cemeteries; under motorways, where the light never entered; in shelters and welfare hotels; in abandoned cars, in tents, in ruined houses and in cardboard boxes.

52. As Father Joseph had pointed out, destitution was not just poverty: the destitute existed beyond society's margins, unrecognized or disdained, and bereft of any form of assistance. They were, nevertheless, as entitled as the rest of mankind to dignity and a share in all the ideals for which the United Nations stood.

53. The Commission had recognized the need for a new approach to the understanding of extreme poverty and social exclusion. Studies on poverty were all too often based on data which failed to reveal the plight of the most destitute or to recognize their part in the community's aspirations. As a result, the relevant policies and programmes were not effective enough, and there was a serious and ever-widening gap between those who made decisions regarding assistance and those unable to communicate the circumstances of their need.

54. The Sub-Commission's study on human rights and extreme poverty would represent an innovative and exemplary approach in that regard; a useful contribution thereto could be made by NGOs with experience in helping the poorest sectors of society, and the Wresinski report provided a model for possible consultation. Suitable proposals were contained in a joint declaration, signed by over 20 NGOs, which would be transmitted to the Secretariat for the use of the members of the Commission, which would thus have an opportunity to take an essential step forward on the question of human rights and extreme poverty.

55. Mr. TEITELBAUM (International League for the Rights and the Liberation of Peoples) said he wished to refer the Commission to the proceedings of the Permanent Tribunal of Peoples at its October 1990 session relating to the problems of Brazilian Amazonia, as reported in documents E/CN.4/1991/NGO/6 and 7.

56. It had been noted that the Amazon region was being treated simply as a vast reserve of natural resources to be plundered - with dire consequences for the indigenous peoples and the ecological balance - in an effort to salvage Brazil's economy, which was overburdened by debt-servicing problems. According to a statute enacted in 1973, the demarcation of the indigenous lands should have been completed by 1978, but that had not been done. On the contrary, the authorities had distributed certificates declaring indigenous lands to be unoccupied and allowing rural enterprises to take them over.

57. In the case of the Yanomami Indians, their traditional territory had been recognized by the Federal Government in 1985, but a number of administrative measures had reduced that territory to 19 isolated "islands", as described in document E/CN.4/1991/NGO/7. The Yanomami Indians had suffered from the invasion of their lands by gold prospectors and others, the resultant clashes, and the disease and industrial pollution brought into the region; some 1,500 Yanomamis had died between 1987 and 1989. Resistance by Indians and ecologists had given rise to savage reactions and killings, including that of Chico Mendes.

58. The damage being indiscriminately inflicted on the ecosystem, chiefly by national and transnational corporations, was immense; but the operations which had led to large-scale deforestation and atmospheric pollution had been an economic failure, as the efforts to overcome the nation's debt-servicing problem had resulted in a vicious circle of greater ecological ravages and a worsening economy.

59. Such a policy violated not only Brazil's own legislation, including article 231 of its Constitution, which recognized the indigenous peoples' rights, but also international instruments such as ILO Conventions 95 and 105, ratified by Brazil, and the International Covenants on Human Rights. It was clear that the countries of the North were the chief beneficiaries from the exploitation of Amazonia, as was shown, inter alia, by the EEC financing of the Carajas factory, referred to in document E/CN.4/1991/NGO/7.

60. A programme for the reafforestation of Brazilian Amazonia, to be financed by Japanese, Finnish and German enterprises, involved the planting of eucalyptus trees, which were utterly alien to that environment but were quick-growing and gave readily marketable products. Moreover, the World Bank's plan of action for tropical forests, of which that programme appeared to be a part, would, as shown in a study published in the Multinational Monitor in April 1990, accelerate the region's deforestation and destroy its genetic diversity.

61. Eucalyptus also featured prominently in the World Bank's forest projects for Peruvian Amazonia and Nepal, as well as for Thailand and elsewhere in South-East Asia, despite local protests about the loss of essential local species. The World Bank's new pseudo-ecological vocation - whose sole beneficiaries were transnational corporations - was following the lines of the "Green Revolution", which had led to the dispossession of small landowners and the introduction of hybrid strains, artificial fertilizers and chemical pesticides supplied at high prices by multinational agrobusiness.

62. His organization hoped that the nature and true causes of such problems, including the role of transnational corporations and international finance, would be examined during preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in 1992.

VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS (agenda item 5) (continued) (E/CN.4/1991/9 and 10; A/45/615)

THE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL, MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE COLONIAL AND RACIST REGIME IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (agenda item 6) (continued) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/13 and Add.1)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID (agenda item 15) (continued) (E/CN.4/1991/40 and Add.1-2, 41 and 42; A/RES/45/90)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (agenda item 16) (continued) (E/CN.4/1991/43 and 45)

63. The CHAIRMAN invited the Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic to make a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

64. Miss CHAALAN (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, at the previous meeting, the representative of the World Union for Progressive Judaism had voiced certain ideas which were inconsistent with the truth and had sought to divert attention from the barbarous acts committed by the Zionists in the occupied Arab territories. That attempt was as futile as all previous ones, since there was no concealing the true nature of Zionist policies, which had been developed since the turn of the century, in the context of colonialist and racist policies practised in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Their basic aim was to establish an entity founded on discrimination, and their implementation was to be seen in the occupied territories, including the Golan Heights and south Lebanon.

65. The General Assembly had determined, in resolution 3379 (XXX), that zionism was a form of racism and racial discrimination. That resolution had voiced the overwhelming view of the international community; those who tried to deny it, and thus to defend racism, were easily identified.

66. The vehemence of the speaker in question could not disguise the historical reality of zionism's nature. The book he had mentioned, The Matzak of Zion, contained material taken from the French official archives, among other sources; in that connection, her delegation recommended that the Commission's members should read that book and, in particular, the account of the murder in Damascus of a well-known Catholic priest. The book unmasked zionism's true features.

67. Seemingly, the role of certain non-governmental organizations which attended the Commission was simply to hinder its deliberations; their participation in the sessions of that humanitarian forum should not be allowed.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.